Airways from US Government according to which Jet Airways has links with dubious individuals and undesirable entities based in West Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether without examining the serious nature of complaints received from US Government, Indian Government have given security clearance hurridely to Jet Airways; and

(d) if so, the reasons for giving security clearnace when the matter was still being processed by US authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The US Embassy has sought information regarding Jet Airways in order to make its determination on the application of the airways requesting US authorities for permission to begin air services to the United States from India.

(c) In order to respond to the US request for information to make the necessary determination, the matter was referred by the Ministry of External Affairs to the concerned agencies.

(d) Does not arise.

Krishna Temple in Lahore

1681. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Krishna Temple in the Sarafa Bazar of Lahore has been demolished and a commercial complex is being constructed there;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken in the matter as it violates Nehru Liaqut Pact between the two countries for the protection of religious places of the minorities in the two countries; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) It has been reported in the Pakistani media that a Hindu temple, Krishna Mandir, in Lahore was allowed to be demolished.

(b) The matter was taken up with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

(c) In a Press Release on 15 June 2006, Pakistan Foreign Ministry said that "the media reports claiming that Krishna Mandir in Lahore has been demolished are baseless. The only Krishna Mandir that exists in Lahore is safe and the temple referred to in the section of press is not the Krishna Mandir" whcih is situated on Ravi Road, Lahore.

Renewal of trade link with China

1682. SHRI AMAR SINGH;
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to renew the trade link with China and thrown open Nathu La pass for those activities;

(b) whether Government had discussed the matter with Government of Bhutan which had closed its own border with Tibet amidst deteriorating Sino-Indian relations in late 1950; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Bhutan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Trade and economic cooperation between India and China is an important dimension of the repidly developing relations between the two countries and China is now one of the largest trade partners of India.

Border trade between India and China through Nathu La was resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 at the Changgu border trade mart at Sherathang on the Indian side and the Renqinggang trade mart on the Chinese side in accordance with the Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade signed between India and China on June 23, 2003.

(b) and (c) Government discuss all bilateral and other issues of mutual interest with the Royal Government of Bhutan within the framework of India-Bhutan relations. A press report appearing on July 18, 2006 in Bhutan's Government-owned newspaper quoted an official of the Royal Government of Bhutan as stating that the reopening of the India-China border trade through Nathula would not have a direct impact on Bhutan since Bhutan did not have a formal trade agreement with China.